

**STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT**

# **Clarke Press Release**

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7346 • Fax: 517-373-5338  
E-mail: senhclarke@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD01



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**CONTACT: STATE SEN. HANSEN CLARKE  
PHONE: 517/373-0548**

## **SEN. CLARKE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING**

*Detroit Democrat's legislation is part of bill package supporting Governor's lead poisoning prevention plan*

**LANSING** – Joining forces with Governor Granholm in the fight against childhood lead poisoning, State Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) announced today that he recently introduced legislation as part of a bi-partisan package of bills designed to curb the threat of lead poisoning in Michigan. The bill is part of a legislative package called for by Governor Granholm that will increase funding for public awareness programs and establish tougher fines for landlords who fail to address lead poisoning problems.

“Sixty nine percent of all confirmed cases of elevated blood lead levels are from right here in Detroit,” said Sen. Clarke. “We need to do more to protect Detroit’s children from this serious health hazard. My legislation seeks to help protect children by targeting unscrupulous landlords who knowing rent housing units with lead contaminate problems.”

The five-bill package includes measures that will:

- Create a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Control Commission;
- Require Medicaid managed Care Organizations and Fee for Service Providers to provide lead screening test to no fewer than 80 percent of Medicaid enrolled children;
- Require electronic reporting from Michigan laboratories of positive lead results;

- Create an online and printed “Lead Free Rental Housing Registry” that will include new lead-free construction units or inspected rental units that have been found to be lead free; and
- Create a state civil penalty for landlords who knowingly rent homes with dangerous levels of lead.

“Our children are our future,” Governor Granholm said. “Protecting their health today means that we’re protecting the health of our entire state tomorrow. Lead poisoning is 100 percent incurable, but 100 percent preventable. I know Sen. Clarke is a staunch advocate for keeping kids healthy. I thank him for all of his hard work and support on this very important issue.”

For a copy of the Governor’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention report, go to:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ChildLeadPoisoning2\\_71150\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ChildLeadPoisoning2_71150_7.pdf)

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